SU 2/985

background notes

Sudan

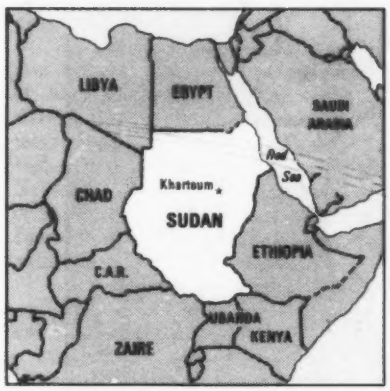
United States Department of State
Bureau of Public Affairs

August 1985

NEWARK PUBLIC LIBRARY

MAR 3 1986

U. S. GOVT. PUBS.
DEPOSITORY 376



Official Name: Democratic Republic of Sudan

PROFILE

People

Nationality: *Noun and adjective*—Sudanese (sing. and pl.). **Population** (1984 est.): 21.1 million; 25% urban. **Annual growth rate** (1981 est.): 3.0%. **Ethnic groups:** Arab-African, black African. **Religions:** Islam, indigenous beliefs (southern Sudan), Christianity. **Language:** Arabic (official), English, tribal languages. **Education:** *Years compulsory*—9. *Attendance*—48%. *Literacy*—20%. **Health:** *Infant mortality rate*—118.9/1,000. *Life expectancy*—47 yrs. **Work force** (6.086 million, 1982): *Agriculture*—78.4%. *Industry and commerce*—9.8%. *Government*—6%.

Geography

Area: 2.5 million sq. km. (967,500 sq. mi.); almost one-third size of continental US. **Cities:** *Capital*—Khartoum (comprising Khartoum, Omdurman, and Khartoum North, pop. 2 million, 1983 est.). *Other cities* (1973 census)—Port Sudan (133,000), Kassala (99,000), Kosti (65,000), Juba, capital of southern region 67,000 (100,000, 1979 est.). **Terrain:** Generally flat with mountains in east and west. **Climate:** Desert in north to tropical in south.

Government

Type: Republic. **Independence:** January 1, 1956. **Constitution:** 1973 Constitution suspended; Constituent Assembly expected to meet early 1986.

Branches: *Transitional Military Council*—chairman. *Provisional Civilian Cabinet*—prime minister. *Judicial*—Supreme Court, civil, criminal, shari'a (i.e., Islamic), and tribal courts; special investigative commissions.

Administrative subdivisions: Five northern regions, three southern regions under Higher Executive Council; each region, two or more provinces.

Political parties: Umma, Khatmiya, Muslim Brotherhood factions, Communist, Baathist and Southern Sudanese political groups. **Suffrage:** Universal.

Central government budget (1984-85): $1.5 billion.

Defense (1982 est.): 24% of GNP.

Flag: Horizontal red, white, and black stripes, with green triangle on staff side.

Economy

GNP (1981-83 est.): $27.36 billion. **Annual growth rate** (1982-83): 2.7%. **Per capita income** (1982 est.): $361. **Avg. annual inflation rate** (1983): 20%-30%.

Natural resources: Modest reserves of oil, iron ore, copper, chrome, and other industrial metals.

Agriculture (35%-40% of GNP): *Products*—cotton, peanuts, sorghum, wheat, sesame seeds, gum arabic, sugarcane. *Arable land*—12%.

Industry (6% of GDP): *Types*—textiles, cement.

Trade (1983-84): *Exports*—$732 million: cotton, sorghum, peanuts, gum arabic, sesame seeds. *Major markets*—Persian Gulf states, Saudi Arabia. *Imports*—$1.388 billion: oil and petroleum products, wheat, manufactured goods. *Major suppliers*—Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Gulf states.

Official exchange rates (Feb. 1985): 2.5 Sudanese pounds (SL)=US$1.

Fiscal year: September 1-August 31.

Membership in International Organizations

UN and several of its specialized and related agencies, Arab League, Organization of African Unity (OAU), Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), Non-Aligned Movement, Group of 77.

EGYPT
LIBYA
CHAD
CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC
ZAIRE
UGANDA
KENYA
ETHIOPIA
Northern
Eastern
Darfur
Kordofan
Central
Southern
Wādi Halfā'
Lake Nasser
Administrative Boundary
Red Sea Hills
Port Sudan
Dunqulah
Kuraymah
Marawi
Aṭbarah
Ad Dāmir
Nile
Shandi
Nahr Atbarah
Khartoum
Khartoum North
Omdurman
Halfā' Dughaym
Kassalā
Tessenay
Jabal al Awliyā'
Wad Madanī
Ad Duwaym
Al Qaḍārif
Al Junaynah
Al Fāshir
Sannār
Kūstī
Al Ubayyid
Al Hawāṭah
An Nuhūd
Al Jabalayn
Garabin
Tegali
Ad Damazin
Blue Nile
White Nile
Nyala
Jabal an Nūbah (Nuba Mts.)
Ingessana Hills
T'ana Hāyk'
Bahr al 'Arab
Abyei
Bahr al Ghazal
Malakāl
Nahr Sobat
Bentiu
AS SUDD (swamp)
Jonglei canal (under construction)
Wāw
Shambe
Pochalla
Kengen
Gor
Bahr al Jabal
Jūbā
Nagichot
Dongotona Mts.
Imatong Mts.
Lake Rudolf
Addis Ababa
Congo
0
150 Kilometers
150 Miles
Boundary representation is not necessarily authoritative
Region boundary
Jūbā Region capital
Road
Railroad
Airfield
Permanent swamp
Populated places
Over 100,000
50,000 - 100,000
20,000 - 50,000
under 20,000
*The population of Khartoum is estimated to be 1,000,000

GEOGRAPHY

Sudan, the largest country in Africa, lies across the middle reaches of the Nile River and is bounded by Egypt, Libya, Chad, the Central African Republic, Zaire, Uganda, Kenya, Ethiopa, and the Red Sea.

From south to north, Sudan has tropical forests and savanna; vast swamplands, open semitropical savanna, and scrublands; and sandy, arid hills lying between the Red Sea and the Libyan and Sahara Deserts. Through these diverse regions, the White Nile, the main artery of the Nile River, flows northward for 3,760 kilometers (2,340 mi.). The extreme desert of the northwest gives way to sandy steppes north of Khartoum. Most cultivation in this area depends on irrigation from the Nile, while in many southern areas, rainfall is sufficient for cultivation or pasture.

The climate varies with the terrain and latitude. Khartoum, at the junction of the White and Blue Niles, has a desert climate. Average maximum temperatures of 38°C (100°F) and higher prevail from February through November, while an average maximum of 34°C (94°F) prevails in December and January. Humidity is usually low, and nights are cooler than days.

PEOPLE

Though Sudan's most recent census was in 1955, the World Bank estimated the population to be 18.5 million in 1980. The population of metropolitan Khartoum (including Khartoum, Omdurman, and Khartoum North) is increasing rapidly and may now exceed 2 million.

Sudan's population is composed of two distinct cultures—Arab and black African—and effective collaboration between them poses one of the nation's principal internal problems.

The five northern regions cover almost two-thirds of Sudan and include most urban centers. Most of the 13 million Sudanese who live in this area are Arabic-speaking Muslims. Among these are several distinct tribal groups; the *Kababish* of northern Kordofan, a camel-raising people; the *Jaalin* and *Shaigiyya* groups of settled tribes living along rivers; the seminomadic *Baggara* of Kordofan and Darfur; the Hamitic *Beja* in the Red Sea area and *Nubians* of the northern Nile area, some of whom have been resettled on the Atbara River; and the Negroid *Nuba* of southern Kordofan and *Fur* in the western reaches of the country.

Travel Notes

Customs: Visas and yellow fever immunizations are required. Health requirements change; check latest information. Travelers must complete a currency declaration listing all currency and other valuables in their possession. Money should be declared upon entry and exchanged only at official exchange offices or banks. Keep all receipts. Permits are required for photography.

Climate and clothing: Washable, lightweight fabrics, suitable for a desert climate, and conservative styles are recommended. Drycleaning facilities are limited in Khartoum and unavailable elsewhere.

Health: Facilities are limited. Water is not potable and should be purified before drinking. Food should be well-cooked. Cholera, typhoid, tetanus, and polio immunizations, gamma globulin shots, and Aralen tablets are recommended.

Telecommunications: Limited international telephone and telegraph service is available in Khartoum and Port Sudan. Sudan is seven time zones ahead of eastern standard time.

Transportation: Sudan is connected by international airlines with Europe. Bookings should be made in advance. Domestic service is available for flights within Sudan. Travel by road or train outside Khartoum is limited. Taxis are available in Khartoum, Port Sudan, and Juba.

National holidays: Sudanese Government offices are open Saturday–Thursday. Most shops and businesses close on Friday; some Christian shops may be closed on Sundays. Establishments including the US Embassy are also closed on the following holidays:

New Year's Day	January 1
Unity Day (anniversary of the Addis Ababa accords ending the civil war)	March 3
Muhammad's Birthday*	
Ramadan Bairam (Id al Fitr)*	
Kurban Bairam (Id al Adah)*	
Muslim New Year*	

*Date varies; check ahead.

The southern region has a population of about 5.5 million and a predominantly rural, subsistence economy. Here the Sudanese practice mainly indigenous, traditional beliefs, although Christian missionaries have converted some. The south also contains many tribal groups and uses many more languages than the north. The *Dinka* (pop. 1 million or more) is the largest of the many Negro tribes in Sudan. Along with the *Shilluks* and the *Nuer*, they are among the Nilotic tribes. The *Azande*, *Bor*, and *Jo Luo* are "Sudanic" tribes in the west, and the *Acholi* and *Lotuhu* live in the extreme south, extending into Uganda.

HISTORY

Sudan was a collection of small, independent states from the beginning of the Christian era until 1820–21, when Egypt conquered and unified the northern portion of the country. Although Egypt claimed all of present Sudan during most of the 19th century, it was unable to establish effective control of southern Sudan, which remained an area of fragmented tribes subject to frequent attacks by slave raiders.

In 1881, a religious leader named Muhammed Ahmed ibn Abdalla proclaimed himself the *Mahdi*, or "expected one," and began to unify tribes in western and central Sudan. Taking advantage of conditions resulting from Ottoman-Egyptian exploitation and maladministration, the *Mahdi* led a nationalist revolt culminating in the fall of Khartoum in 1885. The *Mahdi* died shortly thereafter, but his state survived until overwhelmed by an Anglo-Egyptian force under Kitchener in 1898. Sudan was proclaimed a condominium in 1899 under British-Egyptian administration. While maintaining the appearance of joint administration, the British dominated Sudanese administration, formulated policies, and supplied most of the top administrators.

Independence

In February 1953, the United Kingdom and Egypt concluded an agreement providing for Sudanese self-government and self-determination. The first independent Sudanese Parliament was inaugurated on January 9, 1954, when the transitional period toward independence began. With the consent of the British and Egyptian Governments, Sudan achieved independence on January 1, 1956, under a provisional constitution. The United States was among the first foreign powers to recognize the new state.

The National Unionist Party under Prime Minister Ismail el Azhari dominated the first Cabinet of independent Sudan. It was soon replaced by a

coalition of conservative political forces. On November 17, 1958, following a period of economic difficulties and political maneuvering that paralyzed public administration, Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Ibrahim Abboud overthrew the parliamentary regime in a bloodless coup.

Gen. Abboud did not carry out his promises to return Sudan to civilian government, however, and popular resentment against army rule led to a wave of riots and strikes in late October 1964, forcing the military to relinquish power.

The Abboud regime was followed by a provisional civilian government until parliamentary elections in April 1965 led to the formation of a coalition government of the Umma and National Unionist Parties under Prime Minister Muhammad Ahmad Mahjoub. Between 1966 and 1969, Sudan had a series of civilian coalition governments that were unable to agree on a permanent constitution or to cope with problems of factionalism, economic stagnation, and ethnic dissidence.

Dissatisfaction culminated in a second military coup on May 25, 1969. The Revolutionary Command Council (RCC) was formed and initially consisted of nine military officers and a civilian prime minister. The leader of the coup and chairman of the RCC, Col. Gaafar Muhammed Nimeiri, was subsequently appointed prime minister. The new regime abolished the parliament and outlawed all political parties.

The Sudan Communist Party (SCP) was tolerated, and several members of the orginal RCC were or had been SCP members. Disputes between Marxist and non-Marxist elements within the ruling military coalition during spring and early summer 1971 resulted in a briefly successful coup in July 1971, led by the SCP. Anti-communist military elements loyal to Gen. Nimeiri led a successful counter-coup that brought him back to power several days later.

In July 1976, the Ansar religious sect attempted a coup but failed, resulting in the deaths of scores of prominent Sudanese. Most of the perpetrators were tried and executed. In July 1977, President Nimeiri began a campaign to reconcile his political opponents. He met with Ansar leader Sadiq al Mahdi, opening the way for reconciliation with the Ansars. In addition, hundreds of political prisoners were released, and in August a general amnesty was announced for all opponents of President Nimeiri's government.

In September 1983, as part of an Islamization campaign, President Nimeiri announced his decision to incorporate traditional Islamic punishments drawn from the *Shari'a* (Islamic law) into the penal code. This precipitated controversy, even among Muslim groups. After questioning Nimeiri's credentials to Islamize Sudanese society, Ansar leader Sadiq al-Mahdi was placed under house arrest. On April 26, 1984, President Nimeiri declared a state of emergency, in part to ensure that *Shari'a* was applied more broadly. Most constitutionally guaranteed rights were suspended. In the north, emergency courts later known as "Decisive Justice Courts," were established with summary jurisdiction over criminal cases. Amputations for theft and public lashings for alcohol possession became commonplace during the state of emergency. Southerners and other non-Muslims living in the north were also subjected to these punishments.

In September 1984, President Nimeiri announced the end of the state of emergency and dismantled the emergency courts but soon promulgated a new judiciary act which continued many of the summary practices of the emergency courts. Despite Nimeiri's public assurances that the rights of non-Muslims would be respected, southerners and other non-Muslims remained deeply suspicious.

Early 1985 saw serious shortages of fuel and bread in Khartoum, a growing insurgency in the south, drought and famine, and an increasingly difficult refugee burden. In early April, during Nimeiri's absence from the country, massive demonstrations, first triggered by price increases on bread and other staples, broke out in Khartoum.

On April 6, 1985, senior military officers led by Gen. Suwar El Dahab mounted a coup. Among the first acts of the new government was to suspend the 1983 Constitution and disband the Sudan Socialist Union. A 15-member Transitional Military Council was named, chaired by Gen. Suwar el Dahab. In consultation with an informal conference of political parties, unions, and professional organizations known as the "Gathering," the Council appointed an interim civilian Cabinet headed by Prime Minister Dr. El Gizouli Defalla. Free elections and a constituent assembly to frame a new constitution are to be held by April 1986.

Southern Region

In 1955, latent southern suspicion of northern domination culminated in a mutiny among southern troops in Equatoria Province. For the next 17 years, the Southern Region experienced civil strife, and various southern leaders agitated for regional autonomy or outright secession.

This chronic state of insurgency against the central government was suspended early in 1972 by the signing of the Addis Ababa accords granting

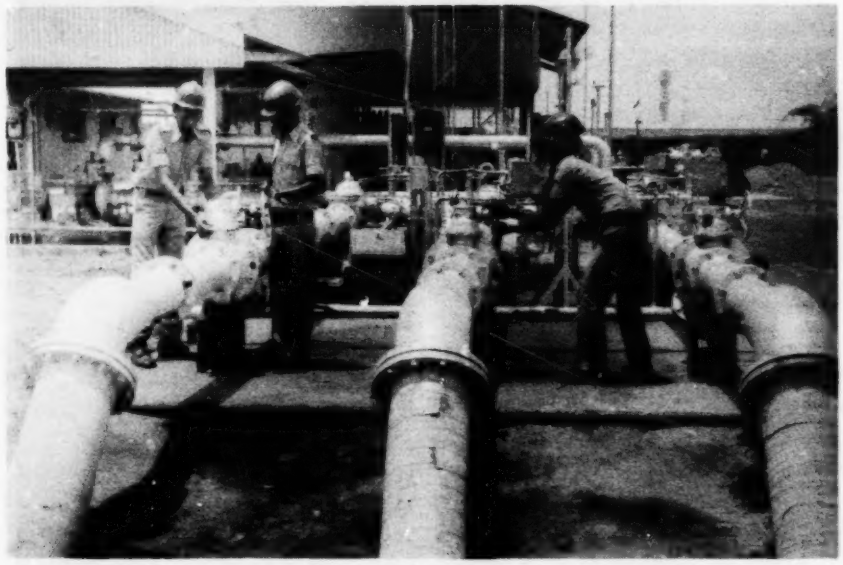
View of downtown Khartoum.

southern Sudan wide regional autonomy on internal matters. A 1983 decree by President Nimeiri, dividing the South into three regions revived southern opposition and militant insurgency. After toppling Nimeiri in the April 1985 coup, the new government rescinded this decree and made other significant overtures aimed at reconciliation between the north and south.

GOVERNMENT

Following the April 1985 coup, a Transitional Military Council (TMC), chaired by Gen. Suwar el Dahab, has governed Sudan, in cooperation with a civilian cabinet, to prepare the way for a freely elected civilian government. A separate Higher Executive Council, chaired by Maj. Gen. James Loro, the ranking southerner on the TMC, has regional responsibilities for the administration of the southern provinces and is assisted by a civilian cabinet.

The 1980 Decentralization Act created five regions in northern Sudan in addition to the Southern Region established in 1972. Under the act, each region has a locally elected assembly and governor appointed by the president from a slate nominated by a special regional electoral college. Since the April 6 coup, the TMC has suspended the regional assemblies and placed each region under the control of a military governor. All regions have limited budgetary powers and depend on the central government for economic sup-



Above: The water purification plant in Khartoum North. Below: The pumping center of Sudan's oil pipeline, which runs from Port Sudan to Khartoum.

port. Khartoum Province, comprising the capital and outlying districts, is separately administered by a special commissioner.

Principal Government Officials

Chairman of Transitional Military Council—Gen. Suwar El Dahab
Prime Minister—Dr. El Gizouli DeFalla
Deputy Prime Minister—Samuel Aru Bol
Chairman of the Higher Executive Council (South)—Maj. Gen. James Loro

Ministers
Foreign Affairs—Ibrahim Taha Ayoub
Finance—Awad Karim Abdel Majeed
Defense—Brig. Gen. Osman Abdallah Mohamed
Interior—Gen. Abbas Medani
Commerce—Sidahmed El Sayed
Energy, Industry, and Mining—Abdel Aziz Osman Musa
Agriculture and Natural Resources—Siddiq Abdeen

Ambassador to the United States—Salih Ahmed Mohamed Salih
Ambassador to the United Nations—Omer Yousif Barido

POLITICAL CONDITIONS

All traditional political parties, disbanded under Nimeiri, have since been legalized. The SSU, under Nimeiri the only legally recognized party, has been abolished. Since the coup, some 20 or 30 parties have been formed, and the government is expected to enact registration procedures in preparation for the April 1986 elections.

Sudan has a tradition of strong labor unions, which now are organized under the Sudanese Workers Trade Union Federation and the Federation of Employees and Professionals Trade Unions. The Railway Workers Union is the nation's most powerful single union.

Various student groups spanning the political spectrum have played a significant role in Sudanese political history. In August 1979, a period of student-led antigovernment demonstrations and strikes resulted from severe economic problems and the government's initial steps to implement International Monetary Fund (IMF) reforms. Various changes were made in the government, and some price increases were rolled back to calm the situation. Students protested again in January 1982, when the government removed sugar subsidies, but the government had little difficulty maintaining control. Further protests in April 1985, against lifting of food and commodity subsidies as well as other IMF reforms, resulted in a military coup which successfully toppled Nimeiri.

ECONOMY

Sudan's primary resources are agricultural. Although the country is trying to diversify its cash crops, cotton and cottonseed account for more than 50% of export earnings. Another large export crop is gum arabic, with Sudan producing four-fifths of the world's supply. Grain sorghum *(dura)* is the principal food crop, and wheat is grown for domestic consumption. Other crops, such as sesame seeds, peanuts, and castor beans, are cultivated for domestic consumption and increasingly for export. Livestock production has vast potential, and many animals, particularly camels and sheep, are exported to Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and other Arab countries.

The inadequate transportation system and the high cost of hauling agricultural products over great distances are major hindrances to economic development. Sudan's only paved highway runs from Port Sudan to

Khartoum. Completed in mid-1980, it has greatly eased commerce between these cities. Southern transportation is subject to weather conditions. Programs are underway to improve roads in southern and western Sudan but are unlikely to be completed before the second half of the 1980s.

At present, the country's transportation facilities consist of one 4,800-kilometer (2,784-mi.), single-track railroad with a feeder line, supplemented by river steamers, the Sudan Airways, and about 1,900 kilometers (1,200 mi.) of paved or gravel roads.

Sudan has made large investments in growing cotton under various irrigation and pump plans, particularly the Gezira Scheme, south of Khartoum between the White and Blue Niles. Rainfed agriculture, primarily millet, sesame seeds, peanuts, and short-staple cotton, has had uneven success; however, the government is making some progress in developing the rainlands for mechanized agriculture. These lands are promising, provided the problems of transportation and irrigation to supplement rainfall can be solved.

Sudan's limited industrial development consists principally of agricultural processing and various light industries located at Khartoum North. Although Sudan is reputed to have great mineral resources, exploration has been quite limited, and the country's real potential is unknown. Small quantities of asbestos, chromium, and mica are exploited commercially. Extensive petroleum exploration began in the mid-1970s and might produce all Sudan's needs by the 1990s. Significant finds have been made in the Upper Nile region, but attacks by southern insurgents suspended explorations and development activity there.

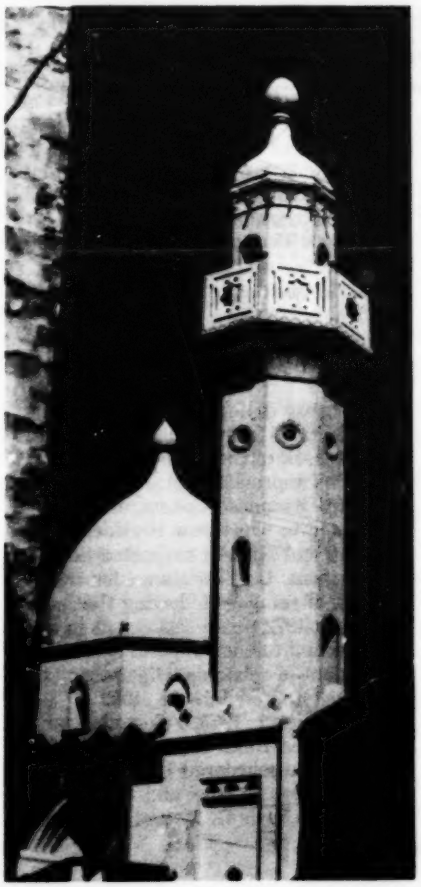
Sudan has an installed capacity of 300 megawatts (MW), of which 180 MW is hydroelectric and the rest, thermal. More than 70% of the hydropower comes from the Roseires Dam on the Blue Nile grid. Various projects are underway for expanding Roseires power station and for developing thermal and other sources of energy.

The United States, the Federal Republic of Germany, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and other Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC) nations supply most of Sudan's economic assistance. Sudan's role as an economic link between Arab and African countries is demonstrated by the location in Khartoum of the Arab Bank for African Economic Development. The World Bank has been the largest source of development loans.

Between 1969 and 1971, Sudan relied heavily on communist assistance, receiving substantial Soviet military deliveries and greatly expanding its trade with the Soviet Union, Eastern Europe, and China. In 1970, China extended an aid credit of $42 million, used mainly for road construction and a textile mill, and North Korea agreed to a modest credit to Sudan.

After the failure of the SCP-led coup in July 1971, Sudan's domestic and foreign policies began to change. Trade with the United States, as with other market economies, increased substantially, while trade with communist countries (except China) decreased.

The government confiscated many private businesses during 1970, but after July 1971 returned most locally owned businesses to their former owners and negotiated compensation agreements with nationalized, foreign-owned firms. Sudanese authorities are attempting to encourage the economy's private sector and to obtain foreign investment and technology. In 1980, the government passed a liberalized investment code developed jointly by the Sudanese business community and the Sudan-U.S. Business Council. Implemented in July 1982, the code protects foreign investors from nationalization and provides tax and operating incentives. Current investment by U.S. companies is approximately $1 billion and is growing.



Mahdi Mosque.

Sudan will require extraordinary levels of program assistance and debt relief to manage a foreign debt exceeding $9 billion, equal to the country's entire GNP. Since the late 1970s, the IMF, World Bank, and key donors have worked closely to close Sudan's external gap, and to promote reforms to counter the effect of inefficient economic policies and practices. Reforms have begun to reduce inflation and provide producer incentives but as yet have had little impact upon Sudan's serious balance-of-payments deficit, which, excerbated by rising energy import expenditures, is unlikely to decline significantly before the late 1980s. In 1982, cotton production improved markedly over preceding years. Despite progress in some areas, by mid-1984 a combination of factors, including drought, inflation, confused application of Islamic law, reduced donor disbursements, and capital flight, led to a serious foreign exchange crisis and increasing shortages of imported inputs and commodities. The government fell out of compliance with the IMF standby program and accumulated substantial arrearages on repurchase obligations to the IMF.

DEFENSE

The Sudanese People's Armed Forces is a 60,000-member army supported by a small air force and navy. It is a defensive force, having the additional duty of maintaining internal security. The army grew from the British-led Sudan Defense Force of the condominium era, the troops of which fought in World War II. Sudan's Army bore the main combat burden against southern Sudanese Anya Nya secessionists during the 17-year civil war. It was from among officers dissatisfied with the government's inability to settle the war that President Nimeiri drew much of his support when he took power in 1969. The 1972 Addis Ababa accords ending the civil war integrated many former Anya Nya soldiers into the Sudanese Army.

Sudan's military services are hampered by limited and outdated

Further Information

These titles are provided as a general indication of material published on this country. The Department of State does not endorse unofficial publications.

Bechtold, Peter. *Politics in the Sudan: Parliamentary and Military Rule in an Emerging African Nation.* New York: Praeger, 1976.

Beshir, Mohamed Omer. *Revolution and Nationalism in the Sudan.* New York: Barnes & Noble, 1974.

_____. *The Southern Sudan: From Conflict to Peace.* New York: Barnes & Noble, 1976.

Collins, Robert. *The Southern Sudan in Historical Perspective.* Shiloh Center for Mid-Eastern and African Studies, 1975.

Gurdon, Charles. *Sudan at the Crossroads.* Cambridgeshire, England: Menas Press Ltd., 1984.

Hoagland, Edward. *African Calliope: A Journey to the Sudan.* New York: Random House, 1979.

Holt, Peter. *A Modern History of the Sudan.* New York: Grove, 1962.

Lees, Francis and Hugh Brooks. *The Economic and Political Development of the Sudan.* Boulder, Colorado: Westview Press, 1977.

Malwal, Bona. *People and Power in Sudan: The Struggle for National Stability.* London: Ithaca Press, 1981.

Sylvester, Anthony. *Sudan Under Nimeiri.* London: Bodley Head, 1971.

Trimington, J. Spencer. *Islam in the Sudan.* London: Oxford Press, 1958.

Voll, John O. *The Sudan.* Boulder: Westview Press, 1985.

Wai, Dunstan M. *The African-Arab Conflict in the Sudan.* New York: Africana Publishing Co., 1981.

Warburg, Gabriel. *Islam, Nationalism and Communism in a Traditional Society—The Case of Sudan.* London: Frank Cass, 1978.

Available from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402:

American University. *Area Handbook for the Democratic Republic of Sudan.* 1983.

For information on economic trends, commercial development, production, trade regulations, and tariff rates, contact the International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, D.C. 20230 or any Commerce Department district office.

equipment, much left over from Soviet assistance a decade ago. A small but growing U.S. military assistance mission is working with the Sudanese Government to upgrade equipment, including armor, artillery, and logistics. Sudan also receives military assistance from Arab and European countries and China. Ties are particularly close with Egypt, with which Sudan has a defense treaty.

FOREIGN RELATIONS

Solidarity with other Arab countries has been a feature of Sudan's foreign policy. When the Arab-Israeli war began in June 1967, Sudan declared war on Israel. However, in the early and mid-1970s, Sudan gradually shifted its stance and was supportive of the Camp David process.

Relations between Sudan and Libya deteriorated in the early 1970s and reached a low in October 1981, when Libyan leader Col. Mu'ammar Qadhafi began a policy of cross-border raids into western Sudan. After the 1985 coup, the military government resumed diplomatic relations with Libya, as part of a policy of improving relations with neighboring and Arab states.

U.S.-SUDANESE RELATIONS

Sudan broke diplomatic ties with the United States in June 1967, following the outbreak of the Arab-Israeli war. Relations improved after July 1971, when the Sudanese Communist Party attempted to overthrow President Nimeiri, and Nimeiri suspected Soviet involvement. U.S. assistance for resettlement of refugees following the February 1972 peace settlement in the south added further impetus to the improvement of relations. Diplomatic ties were restored on June 25, 1972.

On March 1, 1973, Palestinian terrorists of the Black September Organization murdered U.S. Ambassador Cleo A. Noel and Deputy Chief of Mission Curtis G. Moore. Sudanese officials arrested the terrorists and tried and convicted them on murder charges. In June 1974, however, the Sudanese Government released the convicted murderers to the custody of the Egyptian Government. The U.S. Ambassador to Sudan was withdrawn in protest. Although the U.S. Ambassador was returned to Khartoum in November 1974, relations with Sudan remained static until late 1975 and early 1976, when President Nimeiri mediated the release of 10 American hostages being held by Eritrean insurgents in rebel strongholds in northern Ethiopia. In 1976, the United States decided to resume economic assistance to Sudan. Such aid has since increased, totaling $244 million in 1984, and with emergency food aid will total over $400 million in 1985.

U.S.-Sudanese relations remain excellent. Gen. Suwar el Dahab and other Sudanese Government officials have expressed the desire for continued friendly relations. U.S. assistance programs continue uninterrupted.

Principal U.S. Officials

Ambassador—Hume A. Horan
Deputy Chief of Mission—David H. Shinn
Public Affairs Officer (USIS)—Roger C. Rosco
Director, U.S. Aid Mission—William R. Brown

The U.S. Embassy in Sudan is located at Shari'a Ali Abdul Lat f, P.O. Box 699, Khartoum (tel. 74700, 75680, 74139, 74524). Hours are 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Thursday and Saturday. A U.S. Marine security guard is on duty when the embassy is closed and can be contacted in an emergency. ■

Published by the United States Department of State • Bureau of Public Affairs • Office of Public Communication • Editorial Division • Washington, D.C. • October 1985
Editor: Juanita Adams

Department of State Publication 8022
Background Notes Series • This material is in the public domain and may be reproduced without permission; citation of this source would be appreciated.

For sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402